THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) adn (b) The Government of India is in the process of reaching an agreement with the ADB for a loan to support the Capital Market Development Programme. In this context the Government of India is formulating strategies for automated trading in debt and equity securities and automated settlement of trades on exchanges.

(c) There is no proposal to make a loan available for SEBI from the IMF.

Telephones in Village Panchayats

*69. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to provide telephones to all village panchayats;

(b) if so, the number of village panchayats provided with telephones as on the 30th September 1993;

(c) the number of village panchayats yet to be provided with telephones.

(d) what steps Government propose to take to provide telephones to the remaining village panchayats;

(e) the number of electromechanical exchanges which are worn out or the life of which has expired, and are still to be replaced by electronic exchanges as on the 30th September, 1993; and

(f) what are the steps taken to replace the worn-out exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As on 30th September, 1993, out of a total of 2,32,347 Panchayat, villages, the number of such villages with telephone facility is 1,04,135 and witnout telephone facility it is 1,28,212.

(d) Government have planned to provide telephone facility to the remaining panchayat villages by 31st March, 1995 progressively subect to availability of resources.

(e) (i) As a first step Government have planned to replace all electromechanical exchanges of the Type MAX III and MAX II (LF) irrespective of their life as a part of modernisation plan of Eighth Plan objective.

(ii) The other electro mechanical exchanges of the type MAX II (US) and MAX I are also being replaced on expiry of their prescribed life. The details of such exchanges as on 30.9.1993 is being worked out and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(f) About 4 lakh lines of electromechanical exchanges are likely to be replaced during the current financial year.

Waiting List of Telephones in the Country

*70. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of pending telephone applications State-wise till date;

(b) what is the break-up of the same in metropolitan cities; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to provide telephone connections early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM). (a) The details are given in Statement I (See below).